UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.5/1996/1
14 March 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Special session of 1996
21-31 May 1996
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Review of the functioning of the Commission:

   (a) Review of the mandate, terms of reference and scope of work;

   (b) Elaboration of a multi-year programme of work;

   (c) Review of the frequency of its meetings in the light of the above and recommendations thereon to the Council.

4. Substantive theme: strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty:

   (a) Formulation of integrated strategies;

   (b) Meeting the basic human needs of all;

   (c) Promotion of self-reliance and community-based initiatives.

5. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its special session of 1996.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Consistent with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission at past sessions has elected, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure requires that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda. The Secretary-General has prepared the present provisional agenda for the special session of 1996 on the basis of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/60 and General Assembly resolution 50/161.

3. Review of the functioning of the Commission

In its resolution 1995/60, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission for Social Development should hold a special session in 1996, in order, inter alia:

(a) To review its mandate, terms of reference and scope of work;

(b) To elaborate its multi-year programme of work;

(c) To review the frequency of its meetings in the light of the above and make recommendations thereon to the Council.

In its resolution 50/161, the General Assembly called upon the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, with the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development, to develop a multi-year programme of work to the year 2000, selecting specific themes and addressing them from an interrelated and integrated perspective, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and to present its recommendations to the Council, which should ensure harmonization between such a multi-year programme of work and those of other relevant functional commissions of the Council.

It also endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/60, and called upon the Commission for Social Development, when developing its multi-year programme of work for the follow-up to the Summit:

(a) To adapt its mandate in order to ensure an integrated approach to social development;

(b) To integrate the current sectoral issues on its agenda in the multi-year programme;

(c) To review and update its methods of work and to make recommendations to ensure an effective follow-up to the Summit;

(d) To establish the practice of inviting experts to contribute to its work;

(e) To consider integrating into its work high-level representatives on social development issues and policies.

It requested the Commission for Social Development, in view of the scope of work of the Commission, to consider the composition of the membership of the Commission and the frequency of its sessions, and to make recommendations thereon to the Economic and Social Council. It also requested the Commission to establish the practice of involving the relevant actors of civil society in the field of social development to contribute to its work, and requested the Secretary-General to present proposals to the Commission and the Economic and Social Council for consideration, taking into account the experience gained in other functional commissions, the Council, the International Labour Organization and the Summit.

To assist the Commission in its consideration of these matters, the Secretary-General has prepared a report that provides a historical perspective on the functioning of the Commission and outlines some options that the Commission may wish to consider under each of the relevant subheadings of Council resolution 1995/60 and General Assembly resolution 50/161.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the functioning of the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/1996/2)

4. Substantive theme: strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty

In its decision 1995/324, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission for Social Development, at its special session in 1996, should consider the following theme:

Strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty:

(a) Formulation of integrated strategies;

(b) Meeting the basic human needs of all;

(c) Promotion of self-reliance and community-based initiatives.

In its resolution 48/183 the General Assembly proclaimed 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and in its resolution 50/107 the Assembly proclaimed the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006). The attention of the Commission is drawn also to the Copenhagen

Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (see A/CONF.169/9), in particular, commitment 2 of the Declaration and chapter 2 of the Programme of Action. The Commission has before it a report of the Secretary-General on strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty, which deals with the above-mentioned issues within the context of the current mandates of the Commission for Social Development. The report also identifies the functions and mandates, concerning poverty, of other bodies within the United Nations, including the coordination functions of the Economic and Social Council.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty (E/CN.5/1996/3)

5. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission

In its decision 1995/248 of 24 July 1995, the Economic and Social Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development. Subsequently, in its resolution 1995/60 of 28 July 1995, the Council decided that the Commission should hold a special session in 1996. The Commission therefore has the opportunity to review the agenda for the thirty-fifth session and, if necessary, make further recommendations to the Council.

Documentation

Provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its special session of 1996

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.